

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

STATE OF NEW MEXICO *ex rel.*) 05 MAY - 6 AM 9:35
State Engineer,)
Plaintiff,) 69-
v.) No. CV 7941 JC BB
ROMAN ARAGON, *et al.*,) CLERK SANTA FE
Defendants.) RIO CHAMA Stream System
Wild & Scenic River Section

UNITED STATES' INTERIM STATUS REPORT

The parties joint Status Report of November 15, 2004 explained that in the fall of 2004 the United States submitted a written proposal to the State and the Acequias participating in this matter addressing settlement of the United States' Wild and Scenic Rivers Act federal reserved water right on the Rio Chama and that both attorneys for the parties and technical representatives of the parties had met to discuss the United States' proposal.

Since that report the State has completed its technical analysis of the United States' proposal. In January of this year, a team of State employees with applicable resource expertise and an outside consultant reviewed the United States' proposal. Both produced reports which commented on the United States' analysis and proposed an alternative basis for a settlement of the water right.

The United States in turn had a an interdisciplinary team of resource experts review the State's reports and settlement proposal. The United States also independently re-assessed some of the work done as its claim was developed. This led the United States to re-evaluate its settlement proposal. Developing the new proposal required internal vetting both

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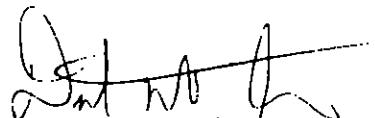
locally and with the Forest Service's Washington office.

In early April, counsel for the United States sent Counsel for the State a letter which addressed technical issues raised in the State's report and presented a revised settlement offer. The United States also sent the letter to counsel for the Rio Chama Acequia Association and the Asociacion de Acequia Nortenas de Rio Arriba. On April 19, counsel for the United States met with attorneys for the State and provided additional explanation of the United States' proposal.

The United States has been informed the State is evaluating the United States' revised settlement offer and is preparing a response to the United States' proposal that will also be made available to counsel for the Rio Chama Acequia Association and the Asociacion de Acequia Nortenas de Rio Arriba. The United States anticipates that at the regularly scheduled June status conference the parties will be able to inform the Special Master that they have either reached a conceptual settlement or will request a schedule for litigation of certain issues.

DATED this 14th day of May, 2005.

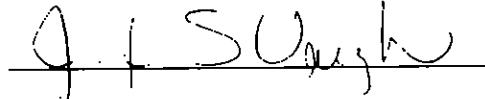
Respectfully Submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the **UNITED STATES INTERIM STATUS REPORT** was sent via First Class Mail, to the following on May 5, 2005.



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